



Brownfields 2006 Grant Fact Sheet

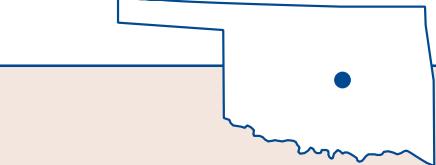
Absentee Shawnee Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma

EPA Brownfields Program

EPA's Brownfields Program empowers states, communities, and other stakeholders in economic development to work together to prevent, assess, safely clean up, and sustainably reuse brownfields. A brownfield site is real property, the expansion, redevelopment, or reuse of which may be complicated by the presence or potential presence of a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant. On January 11, 2002, President George W. Bush signed into law the Small Business Liability Relief and Brownfields Revitalization Act. Under the Brownfields Law, EPA provides financial assistance to eligible applicants through four competitive grant programs: assessment grants, revolving loan fund grants, cleanup grants, and job training grants. The brownfields job training grants provide residents of communities impacted by brownfields with the skills and training needed to effectively gain employment in assessment and cleanup activities associated with brownfield redevelopment and environmental remediation. Additionally, funding support is provided to state and tribal response programs through a separate mechanism.

Community Description

The Absentee Shawnee Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma was selected to receive a job training grant. The grant will serve all Native Americans and will include non-tribal members living within a 50-mile radius of



Job Training Grant

\$200,000

EPA has selected the Absentee Shawnee Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma for a job training grant. The tribe plans to train 75 students and place 45 in environmental jobs. Graduates will be tracked for one year. The 320-hour training program will be conducted by East Central University in Ada, Oklahoma, and Gordon Cooper Vo-Tech. Courses will include HAZWOPER, general worker safety, lead and asbestos abatement, environmental sampling, and 80 hours of on-the-job assessment and cleanup training. The training will be conducted at three different locations to allow the maximum number of students to be trained without over-saturating available jobs within each community. Students will be recruited primarily from among Absentee Shawnee tribal members, but the course also will be offered to members of other tribes and non-native residents in the area. Students will be placed into environmental jobs with the assistance of the Absentee Shawnee Tribe Workforce Investment Program, the Pottawatomie County Workforce Investment Center, the Chickasaw Foundation, and local environmental employers.

Contacts

For further information, including specific grant contacts, additional grant information, brownfields news and events, and publications and links, visit the EPA Brownfields web site at: www.epa.gov/brownfields.

EPA Region 6 Brownfields Team

214-665-6755

<http://www.epa.gov/earth1r6/6sf/bfpages/sfbfhome.htm>

Grant Recipient: Absentee Shawnee Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma
405-273-9966

Shawnee, Oklahoma, which is the location of the Absentee Shawnee Tribal Complex. This area includes 3,013 tribal members and residents of Pottawatomie County (population 67,348), Cleveland County (population 219,966), Seminole County (population 24,289), and Pontotoc County (population 35,174). Poverty rates in these counties range as high as 14.6 percent. The Native Americans in this area represent a large segment of the minority population and the largest percentage of low-income and disadvantaged residents.

Brownfields, which are scattered throughout this predominantly rural area, include abandoned or underused commercial and industrial facilities, empty strip malls and other old buildings, and abandoned gas stations. The tribe plans to hire graduates of the training program to work on tribal assessment, cleanup, and redevelopment projects. The tribe also has contacted ten environmental employers in the area who are interested in hiring trained environmental technicians.

The cooperative agreement for this grant has not yet been negotiated; therefore, activities described in this fact sheet are subject to change.